



PREBLE Post



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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Happy New Year Team PREBLE! As we ring in 2014 and anticipate all that it will offer, we can't help but fondly look back on our 2013 with pride and great feelings of accomplishment.

From the very beginning of 2013, our sailors were working hard to prove to our Type Commander and ultimately Congress that PREBLE was battle ready and capable of winning any mission. Both the TYCOM Material Inspection (TMI) as well as Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) went immensely well and PREBLE was ready to deploy.

Finally the day arrived for the ship and her company to deploy to 7th Fleet for 7 months. Though saying goodbye to friends and family proved to be exceptionally difficult, our sailors were ready to prove their skills in a real operational environment.

And prove it they did! From the very beginning PREBLE sailors received accolades upon accolades for their outstanding performance and professionalism throughout deployment.

Near the end of 2013, the ship was ready to head back for some much needed, much deserved rest and relaxation over the holidays.

What's next in 2014? Sailors are ever preparing for the Home Port Shift to Pearl Harbor come summer. Until then – to the maintenance yards for us!





From the Bridge

Greetings Preble family and friends! We're off to a great 2014. Thank you to all who attended the recent Family Readiness Group (FRG) meeting. I appreciate everyone who offered up ideas and discussion on our upcoming homeport shift and how to make the Preble Family stronger.

At the end of January Preble entered the shipyard at Continental Maritime San Diego (CMSD) for an extended period of depot level repairs, installations, and upgrades. While in the CMSD shipyard, we are subject to strict visitor controls due primarily to the numerous safety hazards which are present in the shipyard on a daily basis. In the shipyard it is always safety first! Although visitor controls impact your ability to enter the shipyard, you may still see your sailor on duty days. Consider the park next to the shipyard as one place where you can meet for lunch. If you have questions, your sailor can speak to his or her duty section leader.

Completing shipboard repairs and receiving various installations isn't the only thing happening while Preble is in the shipyard. We have begun a series of firefighting and engineering drills in preparation for the upcoming training cycle. Your sailor may be involved in these very important early morning drills. Yes, early morning: 4 a.m. for some; 4:30 a.m. for others. The training will be well worth it, however, when Preble is put to the test this spring. That test will include intense engineering evolutions and drills and firefighting, for which a passing grade is required for Preble to proceed on in the training cycle. As many of you may recall from our last training cycle, the pace is frantic once we exit the shipyard. There's simply no time to catch your breath, and so this training now is vital to our future success.

What I also feel is vital to our future success is your participation in the FRG. It is not mandatory; however, an enormous amount of useful information is shared at the FRG meetings. Therefore, if you have time in your busy schedule (and believe me, I know you're busy!), please attend the next FRG meeting. The next meeting should be quite interesting as three Preble families have taken on what we're calling the Move Challenge. Armed with all the information they need to setup their move, these families have graciously agreed to plan their entire move and then present it before those in attendance at the next FRG meeting. The intent here is to show our families just how "doable" this move is. In other words, no one should be intimidated by the thought of making the move to Hawaii and these families are going to show you how – step by step – how "easy" it was to set up their move. Please visit the FRG Facebook page for details on when and where the FRG will meet next.

Lastly, BRAVO ZULU to our Homeport Shift Planning Committee led by the Executive Officer and Combat Systems Officer for last week's very successful on-line meeting between Preble families and the family service representatives in Hawaii. More than 60 family members logged onto Defense Connect Online to receive valuable homeport shift information and training from our representatives in Hawaii. We will make the presentation available to all in the near future. Thanks again to all of you for your support and dedication. You and your sailors, working hard and doing things right on a daily basis, make Preble the best warship in the United States Navy! Thank you!

CMC's Corner

HOOYAH Team PREBLE Family!

I truly hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and welcome to 2014! This year will be an exciting and challenging time for the entire PREBLE Team. As we move forward to our eventual Homeport Shift, the Commanding Officer and I are fully committed to ensuring you and your loved ones make the transition to Hawaii with all the information and means you need to eliminate stressors. We are a team, a family, and as a member of Team PREBLE, we will all work together to ensure your move is stress free! LT Jacobson and her Homeport Shift Team are working diligently to provide all the required information to you and your loved ones. Please be patient, as the Homeport Shift draws near, more and more information will be published.



In preparations to our move, the ship and crew need some upgrades. PREBLE Sailors are attending essential Navy schools to improve their war fighting effectiveness and to enhance their knowledge in their field of study. Classroom with practical training for our Sailors are an essential tool to sustain the high effectiveness of the PREBLE Team, and they are doing a great service. Additionally, the ship is going through an extensive Selected Restricted Availability (SRA). You may ask, what is an SRA? An SRA is a material upgrade and needed scheduled maintenance to the ship. Civilian contractors work with the United States Navy to provide essential improvements and maintenance to USS PREBLE. This will ensure USS PREBLE is still the best crew and best warship in the United States Navy, ready for tasking to keep the high seas safe, and deter all adversaries of United States interests. That is what we do, and I could not be more proud of the professionalism your loved ones display each and every day.

As our transition to Hawaii begins to materialize, your Family Readiness Group (FRG) and Ombudsman are essential players in disseminating the immense amount of information that you will soon be bombarded with. Our Ombudsman, Joleen Mitchell, and our FRG are vital organizations within a Navy command to bring cohesion between families and the Sailors assigned. Mrs. Heather Wooldridge's tour as the FRG President has been nothing but exceptional. Her unselfish commitment to the principles of



the organization has truly laid a strong foundation for Team PREBLE. Raising over \$3500 during our seven-month deployment, she and her team ensured a truly memorable Homecoming in November and an unprecedented USS PREBLE Children's Christmas Party, where 57 families and over 100 children had a wonderful time together to include amazing gifts from Santa Clause. Heather, your generous character, kindness to our family members, and total commitment to the cause has made PREBLE FRG the best organization I have worked with in 22 years. As

Mrs. Wooldridge and family depart Team PREBLE, Mrs. DeAndra Salazar has assumed the role as the new PREBLE Family Readiness Group President. DeAndra is the wife of QMC Jimmy Salazar, and she

eagerly volunteered to assume the role in this demanding position. She has some big shoes to fill; however, she has a great vision and is ready now to move the FRG to the next level. Welcome aboard DeAndra, the Captain and I are looking forward to working with you and your team!

As always, I want to thank the Team PREBLE families for your support of our Sailors. Your noble efforts keep the crew the best in the Navy! I am sure that if Commodore Edward Preble were alive today, he would be proud of your accomplishments. It is an honor and privilege being your Command Master Chief Team PREBLE. Keep moving forward, take care, and I will talk more next month.

Sincerely,

CMDCM(SW/AW) Matthew Logsdon

Ammo Off-Load – Seal Beach, CA

By: LT Bryan J. Martin

During the first week of January PREBLE Sailors had the pleasure of enjoying liberty in Seal Beach, CA while on official business at the Naval Weapons Station. The function of Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach (NWSB) is to provide shore-based infrastructure support to the Navy's ordnance mission. While normal work carried on throughout the day, it was the rare opportunity for liberty in a U.S. Navy port other than San Diego that Sailors looked forward to most.

The Seal Beach community had a variety of restaurants open for PREBLE Sailors to enjoy. A popular stop was Mahe's Steakhouse and Sushi Bar. Located right outside of NWSB's liberty gate, Mahe's provided not only a convenient stop, but some of the best sushi in the area. Not far from Mahe's was Dave's Other Place, a local bar and grill. If you walked by Dave's in the afternoon you were bound to see a friendly game of shuffleboard between co-workers after a long day of work on the wharf.



Since PREBLE's last visit to NWSB in February of last year, the base had installed an outdoor basketball court a short distance from the wharf. This provided an outlet for many Sailors and an opportunity for them to bond with their peers outside of work. OI division was often on the courts in force, led by OS1(SW) Thomas and including OS2(SW) Johnson, OS3 Paras, OSSN(SW) Yarley, and OSSN Meng.

Being the only ship moored at NWSB, PREBLE Sailors also had the opportunity for exclusive use of the bases weapons range. Forty-two PREBLE Sailors were able to qualify in a variety of crew served weapons to include the M9 Service Pistol and the M16 Service Rifle. CSSN(SW) Abdinoor was one such Sailor, stating that he was "excited to get on the range for the first time since boot camp."

Overall the port visit was a resounding success. Not only did PREBLE Sailors enjoy some well deserved down time, they were a welcomed addition to the local community.

Midshipmen Catch a Glimpse into Their Future

By: ENS Tyson Eberhardt



SEAL BEACH, CA – What's life in the Navy really like? Ensign Stevonnise Dunn and Midshipmen Concepcion Espinoza and Vivian Flores received a crash course in the excitement and challenges they will soon experience as Naval Officers while joining PREBLE's crew for a week. Shadowing junior officers through a variety of demanding evolutions, as well as the day-to-day routine of division officers, these future Surface Warfare Officers learned valuable lessons about what will be asked of them once they join the fleet.

For most PREBLE sailors, their first taste of shipboard life is the day they check onboard their first ship. Midshipmen enrolled at the United States Naval Academy or in Reserve Officer Training Programs at colleges around the country, however, get to preview the next four years of their careers by joining the crew of USN warships for midshipmen cruises. Assigned running-mates only a few months or years into their own naval careers, midshipmen were afforded the opportunity to ask questions and gain insight into what the future holds.

Midshipman Flores, native of Phoenix, NM watched Electrician's Mates in action as they set up the ship's shore power, a lengthy and dangerous evolution. Midshipman Espinoza of the University of Houston shadowed CA Division through a tough week as PREBLE's Sonar Techs downloaded and packed the ship's MK 46 torpedoes while in-port Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach for a week of offloading PREBLE's ordnance. They also aided the rest of Weapons Department in boxing, banding, carting, and craning thousands of rounds of ammunition.

One midshipman, Stevonnise Dunn, arrived as a midshipman and departed as an officer as she concluded her final requirement for commissioning; her 1st class midshipmen cruise. CDR Bryans, Commanding Officer of PREBLE, placed the gold bars on her collar during a short ceremony in the wardroom. As a newly minted ensign, she got to see the full range of Deck Division's work, observing a precision anchorage from the forecastle and watching as line handlers moored the ship safely in San Diego.



"PREBLE is a high-speed, high-energy ship; it's great to know that wherever they go next, these midshipmen will have gotten to see the standard set by the Best Damn Crew of the Best Damn Warship in the U.S. Navy," said Ensign Damen Weeks, Ensign Dunn's running mate.

PREBLE Secures “Shooter of the Quarter!”

By: ENS Hasaad Newsome



Within the past 2 decades, Strike Warfare (STW) has become the single most called upon combat ability of not just the Navy, but the United States Military at Large. U.S. Warships pride themselves on their ability to quickly and efficiently accomplish the country's missions. Throughout this past year, your Strike Team on USS PREBLE has delivered outstanding STW performance at every opportunity afforded to them.

PREBLE's STRIKE TEAM completed a rigorous seven and a half month deployment, participating in more than 60 7th Fleet training exercises throughout the Western Pacific Ocean. PREBLE averaged a score of T1, the highest grade possible for a Strike event! Because of the STW team's reliability and competency, they were hand selected by 7th Fleet to lead high-profile TLAM exercises as Launch Area Coordinator for multiple *Fortress Predator* and *Fortress Raptor*, multi-ship training evolution events. This distinct honor is rarely given to a Destroyer and this selection was even more noteworthy given PREBLE's status as a 3rd Fleet ship (coast of Western United States) operating in 7th Fleet (Asian Pacific Ocean).



As a result, we were named the top shooter in the battle group. Upon return to homeport, USS Preble participated in a Third Fleet multi-ship training scenario, *SLAMEX*. This is an intense exercise made to replicate real life battle problems and flex the skills of each strike team member. PREBLE was the only ship to score the highest score possible: T1. This outstanding show of ability led to PREBLE being named 3rd Fleet's "Shooter of the Quarter" for Quarter 1. Way to go Team PREBLE and CM Division!

PREBLE Holds Safety Stand Down

By: ENS Trent Warner

With the onset of 2014 comes another stage of PREBLE's life cycle. Known as "the yards" by many, the Ship's Restricted Availability, or SRA, is a period following PREBLE's deployment where she will spend a number of months at the Continental Maritime of San Diego ship repair contractor, getting both new systems installed and old or worn systems repaired. For the crew, this potentially means many drastic and often unfamiliar changes both within the work place and throughout daily life.

As a combined effort, PREBLE Commanding Officer, CDR Bryans, and his team mandated we tackle potential issues and hazards *before* they have the opportunity to present themselves. Prevention is the key. The result was in the form of two command-wide standdowns. On January 27th, the crew received critical Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) training lead by ENS Eberhardt and CTCRS Mitchell. On January 28th, LT Stashwick and ENS Weeks lead a general safety stand down.

With the number of reported sexual assaults at its highest in 2013, and with many times more cases having gone unreported, the Department of Defense has made combating sexual assault a mission of great importance. This mission is taken especially serious by Commander Bryans, PREBLE's Commanding Officer. CDR Bryans considers sexual assault within the commands of the Navy an issue of grave significance, and has made the prevention and response of it a top priority for PREBLE. Our sailors were also afforded the opportunity to see the faces of the help available. In addition to the SAPR Program leaders, ENS Eberhardt and CTCRS Mitchell, the crew was introduced to our very own GMC Denk, SAPR Liaison, and our three Victim Advocates, STG2 Poole, MM2 Fortune, and OS2 Cook. The training concluded with a special video presentation led by the Chief of Naval Operations and the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy which provided crucial education on how a sailor can actively recognize and prevent sexual assault before it occurs.



Stress makes for a potentially hazardous work environment, and when combined with an industrial environment such as a shipyard, can pose many dangers and safety concerns. The general safety standdown covered a wide range of safety topics both at work and out in the world. Sailors were reminded of the dangers of texting and speeding while driving, and were educated on how to recognize and avoid potential risks of driving in foul weather. The procedures for PREBLE's "tag-out" process were elaborated on, and it was emphasized to sailors the very real and potentially life threatening

consequences of not abiding to tag-out policies. Electrical safety was discussed as well, with a focus on how to properly interact with electrical equipment, and what to do if someone appears to be suffering from electric shock.

To complete the training and ensure PREBLE's sailors were properly prepared to enter the yards, guest speakers from Continental Maritime of San Diego elaborated on very crucial points for a sailor to remember when working in the yards. As PREBLE starts to move forward with an extensive and busy SRA, such training will ensure PREBLE sailors are better prepared and more motivated to safely execute another successful yard period. Stay safe PREBLE!

PREBLE Navigator Designated Ship handler of the Year!

By: ENS Kate Holleran

San Diego, CA – The art and science of ship handling has been the ultimate gauge in deciding the confidence, acumen, and poise of every surface warfare officer. This technique, which takes years to grasp and perfect, is judged annually in our Navy's Surface Warfare junior officers, most of whom have less than 4 years of shipboard experience.



This year, LTJG Brian Holst, *Preble's* Navigator, won the title of DESRON Nine and Carrier Strike Group Nine Junior Officer Ship Handler of the Year. As a result, he is their representative in competing for the title of SURFPAC Junior Officer Ship Handler of the Year. Each contender will be judged as they moor to and get underway from a pier, pilot in a channel, moor to a buoy, anchor, conduct an UNREP, and execute a man overboard recovery.



"It's particularly important to our future that junior officers become and stay proficient in ship handling, which is why these competitions are crucial" LTJG Holst states.

"It's truly an honor to gain the title of DESRON Nine and Carrier Strike Group Nine Junior Officer Ship Handler of the Year and I can only hope to come out with the same results for SURFPAC."

LTJG Holst is currently awaiting results as junior officers from Everett, WA, Pearl Harbor, HI, and Yokosuka, JA compete for the SURFPAC distinction. If Holst is awarded the honor, he will fly to Newport, RI to compete for the title of Junior Officer Ship Handler of the Year for the U.S. Navy.



Up and Coming

Upcoming Events

29JAN – 30APR: SRA Yard Period
May 2014: Training Cycle

Long Term Outlook

Home Port Shift to Pearl Harbor, HI August, 2014

****Be sure to grab your Home Port Change Certificate!!!****

